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## Hoffman, Paul E., A New Andalusia and a Way to the Orient: The American Southeast During the Sixteenth Century

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to the rebellion began in the Tzeltal town of Cancuc, but they quickly spread not only to other Tzeltal communities, but also to some Tzotzil and Chol pueblos as well. Whatever their local identities, individual rebels appear to have felt themselves to be members of a larger community of shared beliefs and traditions. It is not clear whether the rebellion could have mobilized more citizens of this larger community than it did, to become, say, a pan-Maya movement of resistance to Spanish rule. Such an outcome seems unlikely, given Gosner's emphasis on diversity and conflict over solidarity and cohesion, another of his important departures from conventional views of native culture.

Kevin Gosner has based his account of the Tzeltal Revolt and its causes on extensive research in archives in Chiapas, Guatemala, and Spain, as well as on published sources, the most important of which is the eighteenth-century account by Fray Francisco Ximénez. He has made good use of insights from the new cultural history and from the disciplines of archaeology and anthropology, and it is to be hoped that, in years to come, his fine book will stimulate much productive debate and research.

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*A New Andalusia and a Way to the Orient: The American Southeast During the Sixteenth Century.* By Paul E. Hoffman. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990. xiii + 353 pp. Maps, appendix, bibliography, index. \$42.50 cloth.)

The sixteenth-century Spanish colonial history of the southeastern United States has been for much too long a forgotten chapter in the history of European intercolonial rivalry. The few important studies of this period which have been readily available, and which therefore influence our understanding of the era, have been written from the vantage point of British colonial history. Happily, in recent decades, a growing body of scholarship from the Hispanic viewpoint has begun to broaden our understanding and enlighten our appreciation of this complex, early period in the European struggle for domination of North

America. Scholars including Eugene Lyon, Charles Hudson, Jerald T. Milanich, Kathleen A. Deegan, and Stanley South, among others, are pioneering an interdisciplinary approach to the Spanish colonial Southeast which is revolutionizing the historical literature towards greater sophistication and depth. Paul Hoffman, of course, ranks foursquare in the vital center of this important effort. An earlier book of his, *The Spanish Crown and the Defense of the Caribbean, 1535-1585* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1980) provided a cogent analysis of Spain's military establishment in the region and the methods whereby the crown underwrote its financial costs.

His latest book, *A New Andalusia and a Way to the Orient*, will most certainly become a benchmark historical survey for any consideration of North American intercolonial rivalry during the early sixteenth century. Solidly based on extensive and exhaustive research in the Spanish colonial archives, this most readable volume provides a detailed, comprehensive, and very lucid history of the South Atlantic coast from the initial Spanish visits of the early sixteenth century to the failed British colony of the 1580s sponsored by Sir Walter Raleigh. In so doing, Hoffman explains the attraction of this region to the Spanish by examining the origins of the Chicora legend, an idyllic myth held by many Spaniards of the era. For them the legend maintained that this area constituted a fruitful and abundant paradise of such potential that it could become a "New Andalusia" with proper development.

The failed expeditions of Ayllón and Hernando de Soto, however, eventually caused the Spanish to discount the Chicora legend and abandon the region, only to have Spain's hegemony thereafter challenged by French explorations which were followed by the colonization schemes undertaken by Jean Ribault. The sixteenth-century Southeast thus became, by the 1560s, the object of an international contest for empire on the part of Spain, France, and England. Hoffman traces with great intricacy the interlocking motivations and actual conflicts that shaped the events related to the Ribault colonies, the activities of Menéndez de Aviles, the founding of Spanish settlements at Santa Elena and St. Augustine, and the appearance of the British interest in the region led by the expansionist Raleigh and his half-brother Sir Humphrey Gilbert.

In addition to his exhaustive archival research in Spanish sources, the author must also be commended for his careful and thorough use of contemporary travel accounts and narrations (including

those of the Hakluyts, López de Gómara, Peter Martyr, Humphrey Gilbert, Thomas Harriott, and dozens of others) in a successful effort to contextualize their sometimes confused geographic conclusions into a unified, comprehensive analysis. Hoffman's meticulous approach in this regard may be seen in his close analysis of Alonso de Chaves's rudder log and related documents as sources from which he extrapolates the present-day location of Ayllón's colonies along the South Atlantic coast. It can therefore be said that Hoffman's study of the sixteenth-century colonial Southeast must be classed as a monumental *tour de force* which provides the first comprehensive analysis of Spain's role in the region from the 1520s to the 1580s.

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*History and Mythology of the Aztecs: The Codex Chimalpopoca.* Translated from the Nahuatl by John Bierhorst. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1992. viii + 238 pp. Notes, concordance, subject guide, references. \$35.00 cloth.)

The Nahuatl document, *Codex Chimalpopoca*, contains two important texts from colonial Mexico: *Anales de Cuauhtitlan*, dated 1570, and *Leyenda de los Soles*, a much shorter work, dated 1558. Working from a photographic facsimile published by Primo F. Velázquez in 1945, Bierhorst has provided us with a scholarly, annotated translation of this codex, which was supposedly named after the nineteenth-century scholar who attempted to translate it, Faustino Galicia Chimalpopoca.

Cuauhtitlan was reputed to be the fourth most important city in the Mexicas' empire; however, their annals are not simply about their own history, but about the Valley of Mexico, as based on records from other cities. The time frame of the codex extends from the primordial exit of Chichimecs from Chicomoztoc (Seven Cave Place), dated by the native author as 635 A.D., to the reign of Moteuczomatzin the younger, and the list of gifts sent to him by the Spaniards. In between are the migration to the Valley of Mexico, innumerable wars, boundary